

Enhancing the Accessibility & Reach of the VA Rocky Mountain MIRECC Suicide Prevention Podcast



Project Title	Enhancing the Accessibility & Reach of the VA Rocky Mountain MIRECC Suicide Prevention Podcast
Project Summary	Raise awareness about research and community efforts to prevent Veteran suicide by participating in the development and dissemination of the Rocky Mountain MIRECC Short Takes on Suicide Prevention podcast and other educational products.
Country	United States
Agency	Veterans Affairs Department
DoS Office	N/A
Post	N/A
Section	N/A
Number of Interns	1

Project Description

Participation in this project will consist of being involved in Veteran suicide awareness and prevention activities across the spectrum of podcast development and dissemination. We release a new podcast episode every 2 weeks and are looking for support to enhance the accessibility and reach of our products to support Veterans, their families, and those who care for them. The intern selected to work with us will be expected to assist with the following tasks: 1) Transcribe previous episodes from the Rocky Mountain MIRECC Short Takes on Suicide Prevention podcast; 2) Develop collateral marketing material for future episode releases (to include graphics, infographics, banner images, and other visual material to accompany tweets, posts, blogs, and website updates about the podcast); 3) Observe and participate in podcast content development (including providing feedback on proposed interview questions and suggested edits to recordings); 4) Write and edit blog-style posts about upcoming podcast releases with mentorship on this style of writing; and 5) In addition to podcasts there could be opportunities to work on the design and production of other raising awareness about Veteran suicide prevention materials/products. Note that the selected student will need to use his/her own software to complete all project tasks.

Desired Skills Interests

Additional Information

The mission of the Rocky Mountain MIRECC (Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center) for Veteran Suicide Prevention is to study suicide with the goal of reducing suicidal ideation and behaviors in the Veteran population. Towards this end, the work of the Rocky Mountain MIRECC is focused on promising clinical interventions, as well as the cognitive and neurobiological underpinnings of suicidal thoughts and behaviors that may lead to innovative prevention strategies. Our vision is that Veterans, their families, and the VHA will have increased information and options to make health decisions aimed at decreasing suicide risk.

The Rocky Mountain MIRECC Education Core seeks to support and help fulfill the overall RMIRECC mission. We achieve this by following several core values: translating abstract information and evidence-based practices into accessible information people can use; choosing intentionally and disseminating information guided by science and most likely to impact Veterans' lives; and applying innovative methods and techniques to creatively meet the needs of Veterans, families, providers and communities. A RMIRECC intern will support Veterans by assisting our Education core in attaining these goals, primarily assisting with social marketing, one of the core's three main strategic anchors.

A podcast is a digital audio file that can be played on a smartphone, computer or portable media player. It is like having a talk-show that you can subscribe to and take or listen to anywhere.

The Rocky Mountain MIRECC Short Takes on Suicide Prevention podcast provides listeners with engaging information about advances in suicide prevention in an easy-to-access, digestible format. Releasing biweekly episodes since early 2016, the podcast is an innovative approach to share updates on important suicide prevention topics for Veterans, their families, and the clinicians who care for them. We interview leaders across the field of suicide prevention with the goal to make their work accessible to everyone. We promote a comprehensive approach that includes guest experts in upstream prevention to enhance connectedness, resiliency, improved service delivery, and overall wellness. Our guests are encouraged to provide practical tips and strategies that clinicians can use in their next session with a Veteran. With almost 40 episodes as of May 2017, we cover suicide-specific topics including risk assessment, firearm safety, community approaches, peer support, Military Sexual Trauma, sleep, traumatic brain injury, moral injury, microbiome, environmental influences, suicide theory, and more.

We promote our podcast and disseminate our products through a variety of mediums, including our webpage (<https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn19/education/media/>), Twitter (www.twitter.com/RMIRECC), the Rocky Mountain MIRECC VA Pulse page (accessible to VA users only), submissions to VA and VHA Social Media (Facebook), submissions to the VA Vantage Point (blog), GovDelivery (email), and printed materials.

Learn more about our center at www.mirecc.va.gov/visn19

Language Requirements

None